ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

January 16, 1996

Mr. Lester Ewell
[redacted]

Dear Mr. Ewell:

Your telephone call to me was most interesting. I had no idea that the Franklin Printing Company which your family runs was originally Hall and Sellers. Tell me more about it.

I am sending you the 1976 edition of **The Early Paper Money of America** which has quantities of references to Franklin and his currency printing. It is illustrated to some extent.

I also enclose pamphlets I wrote on Nature Printing and on Emblems and Mottoes on colonial paper money.

The Franklin Press copper token illustrating the Franklin press is of English manufacture in the late 18th century and is illustrated in many numismatic publications. You should get an original token in due course.

If you wish to reciprocate by sending us anything you published on the company or about Franklin, it would be nice.

I hope we have been helpful.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

EPN:bv

Dear Mr. Newman, 2/6/96 [redacted]

Thank you so very, very much for the pamphlets and your 1976 edition of "The Early Paper Money of America." I will always cherish them. Again, thank you!

If you have additional information on Franklin and his currency printing, please forward it to me at your earliest convenience. Thanks in advance!

I am enclosing a very small corporate history of Franklin Printing Company written some years ago.

Also attached is a note inquiring for some other information. I have also attached the article that was written in Scientific American as a Letter to the Editor about you.

I look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible. With best personal regards, I remain...

Cordially,

Bob Quell

Tel [redacted]

(A) The Bicentennial Edition of your book entitled "The Early Paper Money of America" is very fascinating reading material, especially the portions pertaining to Franklin, Franklin and Hall and Hall and Sellers.

On page 49 entitled "Signers of Continental Currency" lists the "Names of Signers" on the following page (50) which shows the names of Charles Alexander and Mark Alexander. Page 52 shows the name of John Leacock, while page 53 lists the names of James Read and John Read as well as the name of Samuel Meredith. Do you have any biographical information on any of these men? The reason I ask is that John Leacock, Jr. was the brother of Mary Leacock Hall who was married to David Hall of Franklin and Hall and Hall and Sellers fame. The Leacock's were also cousins to the Read's and Deborah Read Franklin was Benjamin Franklin's (over)

wife. John Read, Jr. was Deborah's brother. Is the John Read mentioned her brother or nephew? Likewise, is the James Read listed could be her cousin or his son. James Read introduced Benjamin Franklin to David Hall through William Straham, the English Printer. James Read married Susanna Leacock, the sister of Mary Leacock Hall, & just mentioned who was David Hall's brother-in-law.

Also, is the Samuel Meredith listed a relative of Simon or Hugh Meredith, who was Franklin's original partner in the firm of Franklin and Meredith? Hugh's father, Simon advanced the original monies to start the firm in 1728.

The other names that could be significant are Charles Alexander and Mark Alexander. The Alexander family were close friends of Benjamin Franklin and Charles Alexander purchased the Hall brother's interest in the original

(see page 3)

printing firm that descended from Hall and Sellers in 1821 and he along with Samuel Coate Atkinson established The Saturday Evening Post that year.

Any biographical information or any information how these men were appointed to these positions would be most helpful in terms of further details.

Also is Mark Alexander related to Charles Alexander? Again, any information you can supply will be greatly appreciated.

(B) Do you have any information on the Franklin Press Token and the Fugio Cent? Anything you can forward is very useful.

LA

P.S. Is John Sellers or the other Sellers that are mentioned (Nathan and Samuel Sellers) any relation to William Sellers of Hall and Sellers? This one is a longshot.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

February 14, 1996

Mr. Lester Euell
[redacted]

Dear Mr. Euell:

Your enthusiastic letter is appreciated. Thank you for the scientific American excerpt which I did not know about.

In most instances, the appointment of the signers of bills of credit of the Continental Congress was made by that body using prominent patriotic Philadelphia people. I do not undertake any detailed genealogy and thus cannot help you. You will have fun doing it yourself.

As to the Fugio Cent and Franklin Press Token, there are many references. That will be easy for you to accomplish.

I have so many unsolved historical research problems, I too need help.

Keep up your probing.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

EPN:bv